SI. No.	Name of State/Union Territory	Number of Employment Exchanges
1	2	4
17.	Uttar Pradesh	24
18.	West Bengal	3
19.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1
20.	Chandigarh	1
21.	Pondicherry	1
	TOTAL	117

Problems in Implementation of ESI Scheme

4325. SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND: DR. RANBIR SINGH:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether implementation of the Employees State Insurance Scheme is done by Union and State Governments;

(b) if so, the details thereof, with the manner of mechanism ensuring coordinating between Union and State Government;

(c) whether this mechanism has witnessed some problems in its implementation:

(d) whether some steps have been suggested to improve working of the scheme to the satisfaction of workers; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and measures to be taken to implement such suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (e) The notification regarding the area in which the ESI Scheme is to be implemented is issued by the Central Government. Thereafter, the Scheme is administered by the ESI Corporation and the State Governments. Except in the case of Delhi and NOIDA, under the existing arrangement medical care is provided by the concerned State Government However, the expenditure of medi-caf care is shared by the ESI Corporation and the State-Governments in the ratio of 7:1. The functioning of the Scheme is reviewed by the ESI Corporation, its general purpose committee and the regional boards which are tripartite bodies consisting of representatives of government, employers and employees. The cash benefits to the insured persons are administered by the ESI Corporation through its regional/local offices. There have been sporadic complaints about shortage of doctors, medicines, equipments etc. in the ESI hospitals/dispensaries. Such complaints are forwarded to State Government for taking remedial action. There have been no serious complaints with regard to administration of cash benefits.

Children and Women Engaged in Bccdi Rolling Industry

4326. DR. RANBIR SINGH:
SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of people including children and women, are en-

gaged in beedi rolling industry in the country;

(b) if so, the number of children and women engaged in the industry, State and Union Territory-wise, and the number of beedis rolled each day, separately by children and women;

(c) whether beedi workers in some States and Union Territories are accredited with the labour departments of concernd States and Union Territories;

(d) whether such accredited beedi workers are entitled to facilities provided under the Beedi Welfare Fund Scheme of Union Government;

(e) if so, the details thereof with arrangements made for non-accredited workers;

(0 whether Government propose to bring the unorganise labour under various ; labour laws; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) As per report on working and living condition of workers in beedi industry in India, prepared by Labour Bureau (1995), it is estimated that 65.9% of workers in the beedi industry are women and 1% are children. No specific data regarding number of children and women engaged in beedi rolling industry and number of beedis rolled each day separately by them, is being maintained by the Government.

(c) to (e) Identification of beedi workers is done by State/Union Territory Labour Departments as well as Labour Welfare Organisation of Central Government. Only such beedi workers who have been issued identity cards and their dependants are entitled for benefits being provided by the Government under the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund in the fields of Health, Housing, Education and Re-creation. In order to extend similar facilities to other workers, special campaigns have been launched and the State/ Union Territory Labour Departments have been advised from time to time to identify and issue cards. The Welfare Schemes in operation for beedi workers are given in the enclosed Statement *{see below).* Even beedi workers who have not been issued identity cards are entitled to protection and certain facilities under the Beedi & Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966.

(0 and (g) Various labour laws viz., the Minimum Wages Act, 1948; Payment of Wages Act, 1936; Maternity Benefit Act, 1961; Equal Remuneration Act; Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970; the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act; Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act; the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act etc. are already applicable to such workers.

Statement

List of Schemes for Beedi Workers

SI. No.	Name of the Scheme
1.	Static-cum-Mobile/Static Allopathic and Static Ayurvedic Dispensaries.
2.	Scheme for Reservation of Beds in T.B. Hospitals.
3.	Scheme for Domiciliary Treatment of beedi workers suffering from T.B.
4.	Scheme for Treatment of Beedi Workers suffering from Cancer.
5.	Scheme for Treatment of Beedi Workers suffering from Mental Diseases.
6.	Scheme for Treatment of Beedi Workers (including Gharkhata Workers) suffering from Leprosy.
7.	Grant of Financial Assistance to Beedi Workers for purchase of Spcotacles.
8.	Maternity Benefit Scheme for Female Beedi Workers.
9.	Scheme for payment of Monetary Compensation for Sterilisation to

Beedi Workers.

10. Re-imbursement of expenditure as financial assistance to Beedi Workers in respect of Heart Diseases.
11. Re-inbursement of expenditure as financial assistance to Beedi Workers in respect of Kidney Transplantation.

SOCIAL SECURITY

1. Group Insurance Scheme.

HOUSING

1. Build Your Own House Scheme.
2. Housing Scheme for Economically Weaker Section of Beedi Workers.
3. Grant of subsidy to Co-operative Societies of Beedi Industry for construction of worksheds and godowns.
4. Group Housing Scheme.

EDUCATION

1. Award of Scholarship to the Children of Beedi Workers (including Gharkata Beedi Workers)
2. Composite Scheme for Financial Assistance to the School going children of Beedi Workers for supply of one set of dress, slates, note books and text books.
3. Payment of incentives on passing final University/Board examination from High School onwards.
4. Scheme to provide incentives/financial assistance of Re. 1/- to female children of Beedi Workers, on the basis of attendance in schools.

RECREATION

1. Establishment of Audio-Visual Sets/Cinema Vans/Exhibition of
2. Organisation sports, games, social and cultural activities for Beedi Workers.
3. Holiday Home Scheme for Beedi Workers.
4. Supply of T.V. Sets to the Beedi Workers Industrial Co-operative Societies.
5. Establishment of community Hall in Beedi Workers Housing colonies with Colour T.V. Sets.

Pension for Agricultural Workers

4327. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to give pension to all agricultural workers after attaining sixty years of age;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the welfare measures being im plemented by Government for the old agricultural workers who cannot work in field due to old age?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) All States and Union Territory Administrations are running old age pension schemes under which pension is granted at varying rates to old persons generally beyond the age of 65 years with relaxation for destitutes, widows, disabled and in certain cases to agricultural workers and females. Some States like Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Tripura, West Bengal, Gujarat are running separate schemes for agricultural workers. The Government of India also announced a National Social Assistance Scheme (NSAS) for the poor which inter-alia contemplates old age pension @ Rs. 75/- per month to destitute persons over 65 years of age.

(c) In addition to the above there are several schemes for the benefit of the poor and the old. A scheme for the life insurance of the 1RDP beneficiaries came into force in 1988. Social Security Fund operated through LIC subsidises insurance premia for 23 approved occupations including farmers. The Personal Accident Insurance Scheme of G1C for poor families has been extended to all destitutes in the country since August, 1988. There are also schemes for the insurance of cattle, live-stock, agricultural pump sets, fire insurance cover for huts and belongings of landless labourers etc.